

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Future Indigenous engineers shown career possibilities at NorthConnex**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students have been given an inside look at the \$3 billion NorthConnex project as part of the University of Technology Sydney's Galuwa Program.

UTS Indigenous Pathways and Outreach Coordinator Kaleena Smith said the program is held each year during the July school holidays to encourage Indigenous students from regional Australia to discover the opportunities a degree in engineering or IT can provide.

"Galuwa means 'to climb' in the Gadigal language, and that's exactly what we want Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to do," she said.

"The five day program features interactive hands-on workshops, site visits with industry partners, cultural activities and information about career paths. Participants also hear inspirational talks from students, cadets and professionals.

"Lendlease is a key industry partner of the Galuwa program and this year organised for the 24 students as well as staff to visit NorthConnex in partnership with the project's education program.

"Students were given an overview of the nine kilometre underground motorway project, an insider's look at the Southern Interchange at the corner of Pennant Hills Road and the Hills M2 Motorway and had the opportunity to speak with young engineers on the project about their careers.

NorthConnex contractor Lendlease Bouygues Joint Venture Project Director Tim Orpen said the visit was a fantastic opportunity for the students to learn about career opportunities in the growing construction and infrastructure industry.

"NorthConnex is a complex project requiring significant engineering support and technical advice to excavate and build the tunnels and surface road connections," Mr Orpen said.

"With a daily workforce of up to 2000, we offer many career and learning opportunities essential for developing the next generation of tunnellers, engineers and project managers.

"Hosting the Galuwa students was an excellent opportunity to share our knowledge of the industry and encourage interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



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“The project has committed \$10 million over the life of the project to upskill our workforce, including establishing a dedicated Training Hub.

“We want to encourage a greater number of Indigenous students to consider careers in the infrastructure industry and this is why we have committed to a target of five per cent of project staff to be people of Indigenous background.”

**Ends.**



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